

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 FDRE-00 IGA-02
EUR-12 L-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 TRSE-00
COME-00 SS-15 PM-05 /090 W
-----108586 211756Z /46

O 211746Z FEB 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6225
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, ICRC, UNHCR, BC, ZA
SUBJECT: RED CROSS (ICRC) APPEAL FOR CONTRIBUTION OF
TENTS FOR BOTSWANA AND ZAMBIA

REF: A. STATE 43354; B.GENEVA 2293; C.GABORONE 465
D. LUSAKA 493

1. ICRC DELEGATE GENERAL FOR AFRICA, SCHMIDS, HAS JUST
CALLED MISSION TO ADVISE THAT SWEDISH RED CROSS HAS
OFFERED TO CONTRIBUTE ENTIRE AMOUNT OF 700 TENTS FOR USE
IN ZAMBIA AND BOTSWANA. ICRC REQUEST FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE
IS THEREFORE CANCELLED.

2. AS CONCERNS REF A, HOWEVER, MISSION FINDS IT DIFFI-
CULT TO UNDERSTAND DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN OVER "WHAT APPEARS
TO BE INADEQUATELY COORDINATED APPEAL BY ICRC", IN VIEW OF
SECOND SENTENCE, PARA 3, REF B TO EFFECT THAT APPEAL WAS
COORDINATED BETWEEN ICRC AND UNHCR BOTH IN THE FIELD AND
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AT HEADQUARTERS. ALTHOUGH ICRC REQUEST NOW OVERTAKEN BY
FOREGOING EVENT, MISSION WILL MAKE APPROPRIATE POINTS OF
REF A TO BOTH ICRC AND UNHCR.

3. IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE THE
MISSION, AND INDEED THE AGENCIES THEMSELVES, VERY MUCH
HOPE TO AVOID THE NECESSITY FOR AD HOC APPEALS, THE

MANNER IN WHICH REFUGEE SITUATIONS FREQUENTLY ARISE,
UNFORESEEN AT THE TIME ANNUAL BUDGETS ARE PREPARED, REN-
DER SUCH APPEALS VIRTUALLY INEVITABLE.

4. AS CONCERNS PARA 3, REF A, CURRENT UNHCR RESOURCES ARE
CERTAINLY INADEQUATE TO COVER PRESENT REQUIREMENTS, MUCH
LESS ANY ADDITIONAL ONES. GENEVA'S 887 AND 1086 (NOTAL),
REPORTED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S APPEAL OF JANUARY 23,
WHICH WAS CAUSED BY A SHORTFALL OF MORE THAN \$22 MILLION
IN UNHCR'S 1978 GENERAL PROGRAM CONTRIBUTIONS. PARA 3
OF GENEVA'S 887 ALSO REPORTED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S
KEEN PERSONAL INTEREST
IN CURRENT PROBLEMS IN THAT PART OF AFRICA, WHICH HE DEMON-
STRATED DURING HIS EXTENDED FIRST TRIP IN OFFICE TO THAT
SPECIFIC AREA. THE DEPARTMENT ACCORDINGLY MAY BE ASSURED
THAT PROJECTIONS FOR UNHCR ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA ARE UNDER CONSTANT, CURRENT REVIEW AS
THIS SITUATION EVOLVES.

5. IN EXPRESSING THANKS FOR U.S. CONSIDERATION OF ICRC'S
APPEAL FOR TENTS IN BOTSWANA AND ZAMBIA, SCHMIDT NOTED
THAT, ALTHOUGH THIS NEED HAD NOW BEEN SATISFIED FROM OTHER
SOURCES, THE POSSIBILITY COULD NOT BE PRECLUDED THAT
FURTHER NEEDS MIGHT EVIDENCE THEMSELVES AS UNPREDICTABLE
REFUGEE FLOWS DEMANDED.

VANDEN HEUVEL
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